THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. CHINTA MOHAN): (a) and (c). Yes, Sir. A number of representations have been received by the Government from the Single Superphosphate (SSP) units about their problems of liquidity and viability.

(b) There are about 80 operating SSP units in the country. Out of them, as per the information available in the Department, 24 units have suspended SSP production. However, some of these units continue to produce Sulphuric Acid. The Units have indicated the following as the main reasons for stoppage of SSP production : severe liquidity problem caused by inadequate/delayed payment of subsidy, imposition of ceiling on subsidy and delay in compensating them for steep escalation in the cost of various inputs.

(d) In the representations, it has been urged that the SSP units are facing hardships on account of ceiling imposed on subsidy, delays in payment, etc. The ceiling on subsidy has since been revised upwards taking into account escalations in the cost of imported inputs. Further, every effort is being made to expedite payment based on relevant data.

Consumer Councils for Coal Sector

*119. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA :
DR. A. K. PATEL :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether one national level and five regional level Consumer Councils for Coal Sector have been formed;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the way in which these are likely to be helpful to the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (c). Consumer Councils at the Level of coal companies and at national level have been visualised as an integral part of grievance redressal process for coal consumers. Complaints received from consumers in a coal company, will be monitored by a Regional Coal Consumer Council. For this purpose one council may be set up for each coal company. In case the complainant does not receive a reply within a month or the complainant is not satisfied with the reply, he may prefer a complaint to the National Coal consumer Council proposed to be set up by Coal India Limited. Apart from monitoring complaints the councils may also deliberate on coal requirements, supply of coal, quality of coal, commercial matters etc. Since these councils are to be set up and operationalised by the coal companies, they have been since advised to take necessary action in this regard.

Upliftment of Rural Women folk

*120. SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any specific programmes have been chalked out to improve the condition of the poor rural families headed by women as identified in the National Perspective Plan; and

(b) if so, the main features of the plan together with the details of the programmes chalked out therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL): (a) and (b). Poor rural families headed by women are eligible for assistance under the on going programmes like Integrated Rural Develop-

ment Programme (IRDP), Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA) and Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY), etc. There is no separate programme for poor women-headed rural households.

Houses for Rural Poor

*121. SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT:
SHRI K. RAMAMURTHEE TINDIVANAM:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken during the last six months to provide low cost fire-proof houses to the rural poor in the country;

(b) whether the Government have sought financial assistance from World Bank and other agencies for this purpose; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (c). Central Building Research Institute (CBRI) Roorkee functioning under CSIR has developed several construction techniques for making the houses fire retardent. They have been extending and propagating such construction techniques in various rural regions through their Extension Centres and by organising demonstration programmes at different locations. The actions taken in this regard *during past six to seven months* are as under:-

1. Fire retardent thatches

With a view to popularize the technique for making different type of thatches (commonly used as roofing material in rural areas) the CBRI has given demonstration at 8 places in the states of Orissa and Andhra Pradesh.

2. Exhibitions

Exhibitions at Pune, Nagpur, Bhopal, Bikaner and Roorkee have been organised on the low-cost fire retardent house construction for rural areas.

3. Integrated Training Programmes

Six training programmes on low cost building materials and housing which include training in fire retardent construction techniques of rural houses also have been organised in recent past.

4. Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY)

Under the IAY, which is a programme of building houses for the poor among the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and freed bonded labourers, the houses to be built are required to be durable and lasting, meaning inter alia that they should be fire-resistant. The number of houses built under the programme during the period from August, 1991 to January, 1992 is 87199, according to the information furnished by the States/UTs.

5. Workshops organised by other agencies

The institute participates in the Workshops/Seminars organised by other agencies and puts up the demonstration/exhibition on various items. Exhibition at 24 Parganas and Nagpur included the low-cost fire retardent construction techniques.

6. Demonstration Houses

Low cost fire retardent techniques are being used in the construction of demonstration houses at the following places where the construction is currently in progress;

(a) 63 houses with latrines at village Sonka and Palka-District Bharatpur, Rajasthan.